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PTO/SB/31 (08-03) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0034

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March 10, 2004

Docket Number (Optional) NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the In re Application of United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail Lutz Richter et a in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" Application Number March 10, 2004 May 9, 2001 09/852,348 For Gathering Stapler with Separate Drives and ... Signature_ Examiner Art Unit Typed or printed Laurence A. Greenberg (29,308) Gloria R. Weeks 3721 name. Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the examiner. \$330.00 The fee for this Notice of Appeal is (37 CFR 1.17(b)) Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Therefore, the fee shown above is reduced by half, and the resulting fee is: A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed. Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. RECEIVED The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet. MAR 2 3 2004 The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1099 I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet. TEC I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet. TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700 A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.36(a) (PTO/SB/22) is enclosed. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information speud not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. I am the applicant/inventor. assignee of record of the entire interest.

 \overline{x} *Total of $\underline{\text{two }(2)}$ forms are submitted.

attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a).

Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a).

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.191. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

(Form PTO/SB/96)

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X

See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.

Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

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NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.